



West Central Electric Cooperative

May 2025

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Electric News

May is Electrical Safety Month

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takes effect in May**
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West Central Electric News
a news service for the members of



**West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**



Headquarters

7867 S. Highway 13, P.O. Box 452,
Higginsville, MO 64037
816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803

PAY BY PHONE: 1-855-939-3639
(*please note this new number)

To report outages 24/7
Call 816-565-4942 or 1-800-491-3803
Report online at
www.westcentralelectric.coop under
"Report Outage"

District office
506 N. Broadway, Oak Grove, MO 64075

Website:
www.westcentralelectric.coop

facebook **Instagram**

General Manager
Michael Newland

Board of Directors
Densil Allen Jr., *President*
Clark Bredehoeft, *Vice President*
Dale Jarman, *Treasurer*
Robert Simmons, *Secretary*
Stan Rhodes, *Asst. Secretary*
Richard Strobel, *Director*
Jeremy Ahmann, *Director*
Colby Dowell, *Director*
Elizabeth Houtsma, *Director*

*This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

From the Manager's Desk

WCE is your constant in the storm

In today's world, there are many uncertainties. Even when I feel I am completely sure of something, an event can unfold that makes me question. I am sure many of you have felt the same way.

For all of the crazy things that are not what they may seem, there is one constant I know with unwavering confidence -- the men and women who run and work at your electric cooperative want to be your constant in the storm. Through all of the uncertainty, we are working for you to ensure you have the most reliable and affordable power.

That may mean knowing you can depend on our linemen working in the middle of the night to repair an outage no matter the weather conditions. It may mean your management and staff employing an aggressive right-of-way program to cut down the number of outages related to trees in the lines. It may also mean your board and legislative team at the statewide level talking with our elected officials to make sure they keep in mind our rural members when considering regulations and legislation affecting reliability and the



cost of electricity.

You have probably heard me say this many times, but we are truly grateful for the trust you place in us, and we do our best to never take that for granted.

During these times when the cost of everything has skyrocketed from materials to wholesale power to fuel and even the groceries you purchase, your cooperative board and employees have trimmed and cut where we can without affecting the reliability of our electric system. Electricity is a necessity, not a luxury, and we do our best every day to show you that you can depend on us to be the constant in the storm -- whether that storm is rain, wind, sleet or hail, or whether that storm is keeping your power reliable and affordable.



**West Central Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Higginsville, Mo. • Oak Grove, Mo. • (816) 565-4942 or (800) 491-3803

Touchstone Energy Cooperative

What you need to know

Take Control & Save Rebate Program Changes

Effective July 1, 2025

ASHP / Mini Split (ducted) Systems

- Dual fuel requirement
- \$300/ton (replacement system with existing fossil fuel backup)
Increase from \$150/ton
- \$500/ton (new or replacement system with new fossil fuel backup)
Increase from \$150/ton
- Energy Star cold climate rating of 8.1 HSPF2 or greater
- Required AHRI & Invoice submission

Mini Splits (ductless)

- \$150/condensing unit
- Cannot be equipped with electric auxiliary heat
- Energy Star certified
- Limit of 2 condensing units/meter
- Required AHRI & Invoice submission

Ground Source Heat Pumps

- Required AHRI, Invoice and Manual J Load calculation submission

Business Lighting

- Adjust "equipment" incentive levels
\$15/sensor or exit sign (maximum)
50% cap/sensor or exit sign

Heat Pump Water Heaters

- \$750/unit
Increase from \$500/unit
- No size restrictions

Level 2 EV Chargers

- \$250 for a smart charger that is at least \$500
- Cannot go to general electrical/installation costs

DISCONTINUED: Window A/C, Electric Water Heater, VFDs for HVAC

**Changes affect equipment purchased AND installed after June 30, 2025.*

***Current rebate forms can be found at www.westcentralelectric.coop under "Saving Energy." New forms available on July 1, 2025.*

Reminder: rates change this month, will appear on June bills

Members are reminded that the 2025 rate adjustment approved by the board earlier this year will be reflected with members' May usage and will be reflected on the June bills. The change amounts to a total overall increase for the cooperative of 6.5 percent.

"Although the increase is necessary to continue to provide reliable service, because we are not a profit-driven company, any margins we do make are returned to our members," Newland said. "For that reason, we do everything we can to control expenses and still maintain quality service to you."

RESIDENTIAL: The new residential rate will see charges for the first 800 kWh set at \$0.1130 (up from \$0.1049) and over 800 kWh at a reduced rate of \$0.0965 (up from \$0.0884.) The service availability charge will remain unchanged at \$1.37 per day.

COMMERCIAL THREE-PHASE: The new commercial three-phase monthly rate will be \$0.0941 (up from \$0.0878) for all kWh. The service availability charge will increase from \$2.34 per day to \$2.42 per day.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LARGE POWER: The commercial and industrial large power monthly rate will be \$0.0565 (up from \$0.0531) for all kWh. Demand will increase from \$11.60 to \$12.10, and service availability increases from \$5.00 per day to \$5.16 per day.

Sample Residential Monthly Bill Increase:

1,500 kWh per month usage

Current bill: \$188.27
New bill: \$200.42
Difference: \$12.15
Increase: 6.45%

3,000 kWh per month usage

Current bill: \$320.87
New bill: \$345.17
Difference: \$24.30
Increase: 7.57%

WCE Rate Schedule

(Monthly Electric Rates effective May 2025)

Residential 101 Rate

Service Availability Charge @ \$1.37 per day
First 800 kWh @ \$0.1130 Excess kWh @ \$0.0965

Commercial Three-phase 503 Rate

Service Availability Charge @ \$2.42 per day
All kWh @ \$0.0941

Commercial & Industrial Large Power Rate

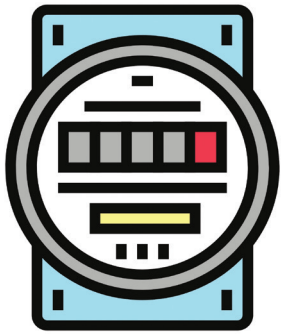
Service Availability Charge @ \$5.16 per day
All Kw Billing Demand @ \$12.10
All kWh @ \$0.0565

Lighting

Dusk-to-Dawn @ \$10.45 per month
Street Lights @ \$15.45 per month

DUSK-TO-DAWN LIGHTS: Dusk-to-dawn lights installed and maintained by the cooperative will go from \$9.90 to \$10.45 per month and street lights will go from \$14.90 to \$15.45 per month.

These decisions are a continuation from the 2023 cost-of-service study (updated in 2024) which determined what the cooperative needed to continue to provide members with reliable electric service in response to large increases over the past few years in material costs and projected increases in wholesale power. At that time, your board of directors opted to spread the increase out over time rather than implement the entire increase all at once.



Memo on seasonal connections

●Members requesting seasonal connections on meters for wells, irrigation systems, etc. are asked to have either the map number or pole number available when they call in.

●Having one of these pieces of information will help cooperative employees ensure the right meter is being connected at your location.

Please direct any questions to WCE at 816-565-4942 or 800-491-3803.

WCE Life Support Notification

Request to add Life Support Equipment Notification to Account

(Please fill out all information completely.)

Name to appear on list:

Name on WCE account:

Account number:

Location Number:

BEST phone number to reach you:

Email:

Life support equipment requiring electricity to operate:

Mail to Heather Hoflander, West Central Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037, or email heather@wcecoop.com

● Please fill out all information completely and send to WCE at P.O. Box 452, Higginsville, MO 64037 or email heather@wcecoop.com

● The Life Support Equipment List is used by cooperative personnel in the event of a planned outage, for example, during extensive repairs or maintenance. The list is not used as a priority list to get service turned back on in the event of an outage. The extent of damage dictates the timeframe for repairs.

● Inclusion on the list does not waive disconnection for non-payment.

● If you have family members who no longer need to be included on this list, please notify us.

● Members relying on oxygen or equipment such as dialysis are urged to have a back-up plan (back-up tanks or generator) in the event of an extensive and lasting outage.

**West Central Electric Cooperative offices will be closed
for Memorial Day on Monday, May 26**

‘Like working in a warzone’



Photo courtesy of WCE Lineman Derek Cole

Electric cooperative crews from across Missouri, including a crew of five from West Central Electric, descended upon southern Missouri following the March 14-15 tornado outbreak that left more than 35,000 co-op members without power, and at least 1,350 poles on the ground.

WCE crews were assigned to Howell Oregon Electric Cooperative headquartered in West Plains, one of the hardest-hit co-ops with more than 6,000 members out. Crews were still working more than a week later, as progress was hindered by additional strong winds that continued to knock out some members' power even after it was restored.

"It was like working in a war zone," WCE lineman Dylan Lilleman said. "We were walking one line and finding rafters and sheet rock scattered across three different fields. We didn't even know where all the debris came from until we found what was left of the house. It had taken a direct

hit and all that was left was the foundation."

Several cooperatives in the southeast quadrant of Missouri were hit, with counties along Missouri's southern border taking the brunt of the damage. More than a dozen tornadoes were confirmed by the National Weather Service in St. Louis, and some were on the ground for more than 25 miles. Eight of those confirmed hit in Missouri, and more than half were an EF2 or EF3. At least 12 were killed in the storms.

To speed the recovery, AMEC, the statewide service organization for Missouri's electric cooperatives, put its Mutual Assistance Program into action. Around 130 Missouri electric cooperative linemen were dispatched to assist the hardest-hit cooperatives. WCE linemen assisting were Todd Gast, Derek Cole, Tucker Crowe, Dylan Lilleman and Nathan Johnson.



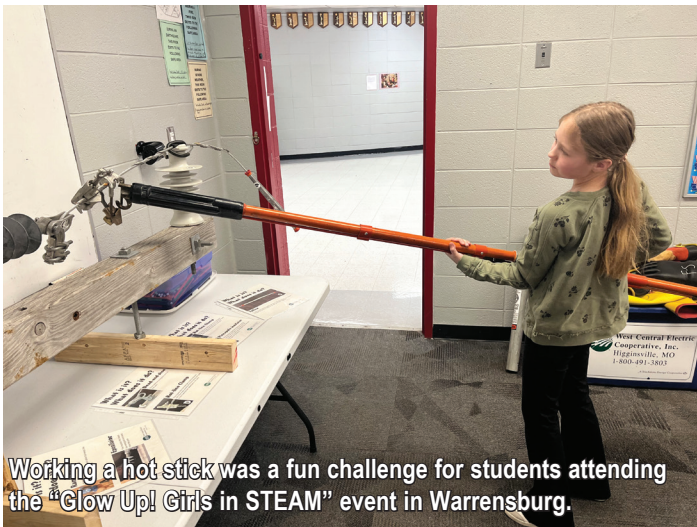
From your cooperative



Operations Manager Scott Gard talks to students at Concordia High School about how the cooperative system is set up.



Trying their hand at working in a lineman's gloves was a hit at Sni-A-Bar Elementary's STEM night.



Working a hot stick was a fun challenge for students attending the "Glow Up! Girls in STEAM" event in Warrensburg.

Education, Training and Information

Cooperative Principle #5: "Education, Training and Information for members, elected representatives (directors), CEOs, and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding."

"Participating in community and school events allows us to spread that message, while teaching things like **electrical safety** and **how electricity 'happens,'**" *Communications Specialist Heather Hoflander* said.

Your electric cooperative is about much more than just providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Keeping with each of the 7 Cooperative Principles is an important part of the bigger picture.

We do our best to educate about electrical safety, energy efficiency, the proper use of generators and how the electric system works, so we welcome the chance to get out in our communities and talk to members and non-members alike. In February, we gave several school safety programs and participated in several STEM and STEAM events that put us in touch with families from all around our service area.





DON'T PLUG THESE 15 THINGS INTO A POWER STRIP

It is fine to plug in some things into a power strip, such as computers, lamps, phones and other light-load electronics.

However, appliances that require a lot of power should not be plugged into a power strip. **Do not use a power strip with the following appliances:**

IN THE KITCHEN

- × Refrigerators
- × Microwave ovens
- × Toasters
- × Coffee makers
- × Blenders
- × Slow cookers
- × Rice cookers

IN THE BATHROOM

- × Hair dryers
- × Curling irons
- × Other hairstyling tools

IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

- × Washing machines
- × Dryers

ANYWHERE

- × Sump pumps
- × Space heaters
- × Portable air conditioners



Do not overload power strips by plugging in appliances that consume more watts than the cord can handle. This can cause the power strip to overheat or start a fire.

**Safe
Electricity.org®**

Learn more at:

Don't overload your home's electrical system

With power strips and outlet converters (a multiple outlet “bar” plugged directly into an existing outlet), we can plug in multiple items in or near the same outlet.

But just because we can, doesn't mean we should. (I can eat a whole box of chocolates, but that doesn't mean I should.)

Just like chocolate consumed in excess can overload your body with too many calories, attempting to draw too much power from an outlet or circuit can overload your home's electrical system. Depending on how your home is wired, you may get away with it — or you may not. If too much current is drawn, usually a circuit breaker would trip or fuses would blow, but this is never guaranteed.

The results of overloading a circuit could range from a damaged appliance to starting a fire. That is because when too much electrical current flows through a circuit, things can overheat. Whether it is a wire, an outlet, or any other part along the electrical path, excess heat can cause serious problems.

Although we take for granted that our homes are electrically sound or that we can plug in “just one more thing,” don't take chances. When in doubt, have a qualified electrician assess your home, and mention any odd symptoms you may notice, like flickering or dimming lights, warm or discolored outlets or cover plates, and frequent blown fuses or tripped circuits.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Feb. 27, 2025

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the Cooperative, in Higginsville, Missouri, at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 27, 2025, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Attorney Sheri Smiley caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen Jr., Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Stan Rhodes, Jeremy Ahmann and Elizabeth Houtsma. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland. Director Colby Dowell was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Jan. 22, 2025; expenditures for the month of January 2025; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the Treasurer's Report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO Rebecca Hoefflicker presented the January 2025 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. She reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. She also gave the investment report. She presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales and ratios. She reported on interest rates and the impact of large loads and cold weather on the budget and projections for February margins. She reported West Central Services has been closed out and patronage capital has been transferred to the co-op. Deferred revenue on large-load demand was discussed and how it will be recorded and approved through the year was reviewed. She gave updated budget numbers. The budget was approved and the financial reports were accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

The following November reports were approved:

Operations Report

Operations Manager Scott Gard provided an oral report to supplement his written Operations Report. He reported on crews, and outages and causes for the month. He gave a mechanic and fleet report. He also gave a brush crew and right-of-way report as well as reporting on the contract signed with Asplundh.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written Safety and Engineering Report. As of Jan. 31, employees have worked 821 days without a lost-time accident. Co-op employees drove a total of 33,933 miles as of the end of January without a serious accident. He reported on safety meetings, crew visits, and gave an engineering/staking department report. He reported on new sites to be served and materials. He reported that the system held up very well under the extreme cold weather in January and February. A SCADA system update was given. He gave an overview of the meters and the age of the meters. New meters will need to be ordered for the system at the Holden substation and at Lone Jack as the old meters continue to die.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer provided his written Member Services Report. His report included RoundUp enrollment and RoundUp updates. He gave updates on Youth Tour and CYCLE presentations and participation at area schools' STEM events. He gave a net metering report. Chamber meetings attended were reported on. He also attended the legislative conference and gave updates on that. A PCI compliance update was given. The Pay Now link was discussed and he would like to move forward with setting up the link.

NW REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW Report. They reported the meeting was held by Zoom because of the bad weather. They discussed margins, the annual meeting and a potential bylaw change.



AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave a report from the Feb. 5 meeting he attended. He provided the department reports. AECI gave an update and large loads discounts and revenue deferrals were reported on.

APPROVE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT

The board approved entering into the proposed Joint Venture Agreement between the co-ops which was presented by Newland.

APPOINT NW VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

Simmons was named the NW voting delegate and Newland the alternate for the upcoming NW Annual Meeting.

APPOINT CRC VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

Simmons was named the CRC voting delegate and Newland the alternate.

REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 3.19

Newland presented the new policy 3.19 that will supersede all other policies. Staff had recommended changes on the capitalization policy. A motion was made to amend the policy to \$5,000.00, and the policy was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 4.7

Policy 4.7 was approved with recommended changes.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SECTION 5

Review and approval of Section 5 was tabled until next month.

REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 5.4 and 5.5

Policies 5.4 and 5.5 were approved with recommended changes

REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 5.5-1, 5.6, and 5.11

Policies 5.5-1 and 5.6 were reaffirmed, as there were no changes recommended.

Policy 5.11 was approved as amended to allow for a full day off, rather than a half day, if an employee is going to be a pall bearer at a funeral, capped still at 3 days.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Newland presented the monthly Manager's Report. He discussed rates and the rate studies that were performed by Toth and Associates. He provided different rate options. The board accepted Option 2, which will result in no increase to the service availability charge and a 6.5% revenue increase. He discussed staffing and interns and employee reviews. Information that is being provided throughout the month was discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:27 a.m. and was out at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2025 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Revenue	\$4,439,753	\$4,439,753	\$3,690,136
Power Bill Expense	2,547,564	2,547,564	1,974,367
Operation & Maintenance Expense	724,712	724,712	597,304
Depreciation Expense	215,362	215,362	207,040
Interest Expense	144,772	144,772	137,833
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	3,632,410	3,632,410	2,916,544
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	807,343	807,343	773,592
Other Margins	21,561	21,561	19,621
TOTAL MARGINS	\$828,904	\$828,904	\$793,213